

policy to work with both parties in good-faith, and I am grateful that both parties have stood with the people of American Samoa when we needed them most."

"Once more, I thank Senator DeMint of S.C., Senator Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, and Senator John McCain of Arizona who lifted their holds in the Senate and lent their support. Without their support, this legislation would not have moved forward."

"I also thank Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid who made this legislation one of his highest priorities yesterday. As a result of his leadership and once the Republicans cleared their holds, Senator Reid made certain that H.R. 3940 was brought to the Senate floor for UC."

"Today, the House also acted quickly and I thank Majority Leader Steny Hoyer for making this happen. He and his staff got H.R. 3940 placed on the suspensions calendar and supported us every step of the way, and somewhere in the middle of it all, Majority Leader found the time to personally call and let me know he was able to get this done."

"I also want to thank Republican Leader John Boehner who also agreed to place H.R. 3940 on the suspension calendar. In this political climate, Republican Leader Boehner could have opposed and objected, but he did not. Instead, he supported the people of American Samoa, and I am grateful for his support."

"I also want to personally thank Republican Congressman Doc Hastings who serves as the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Ranking Member John Kline of the House Committee on Education and Labor. Both agreed to let H.R. 3940 move to the House Floor, although they had every right to hold it since the bill only arrived late last night from the Senate."

"I also thank Congressman Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Congressman Flake and I serve together on the Natural Resources Committee and the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Congressman Flake is personally acquainted with the needs of the Territories, and he worked side-by-side with me to see this through, and I appreciate his support and friendship."

"I also thank Speaker Pelosi and Chairman George Miller of the House Committee on Education. Their support was critical. Without them, this legislation would have failed. On behalf of the people of American Samoa, I thank them for their help."

"Finally, I thank Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo and Congresswoman Donna Christensen. They have been with me from the very beginning of this long and difficult journey and their support has been unwavering. They are true friends."

"I appreciate both the House and Senate which have come together to get this done. I have every confidence that President Obama will sign this into law and I hope that the American Samoa Government will now use these delays to begin the serious process of diversifying our economy. I also hope that by 2012 our economy will be able to sustain another increase so that our workers can continue to be paid wages comparable with the increases in the cost of living."

"Again, I thank everyone who has been involved in this process including staff from the Senate and House. Once more, my heart goes out to the victims of last year's tsunami and my prayers are joined with yours," Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, Sep. 30, 2010]

PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNS MINIMUM WAGE DELAY INTO LAW

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that President Obama signed H.R. 3940 into law. As a result, minimum wage in-

creases in American Samoa will be delayed for 2010 and 2011. The issue of future increases will be revisited in 2012 based on the findings of a GAO study to be completed by 2011.

"In previous press releases and on behalf of the people of American Samoa, I have publicly thanked Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI), Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC), Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK), Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), House Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH), Chairman George Miller (D-CA) and Ranking Member John Kline (R-MN) of the House Committee on Education, Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WV) and Ranking Member Doc Hastings (R-WA) of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Congressman Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU), and Congresswoman Donna Christensen (D-VI) for their leadership and support on the successful passage of H.R. 3940," Faleomavaega said. "Without the support of these key leaders, we would not have been able to pass this legislation which is necessary for stabilizing our economy."

"Without the prayers of our people, I also do not believe this legislation would have passed the House or Senate. The Senate passed the bill by Unanimous Consent (UC). The House passed H.R. 3940 by a vote of 386 to 5. The overwhelming support we received from both Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate is a testament to the prayers of our people, and I could not help but note that the final vote took place on the one-year anniversary of the tsunami that claimed the lives of those we loved."

"The final vote was the final vote before Congress went out of session. There is no doubt in my mind that God has heard and answered our prayers."

"At this time, I want to thank House and Senate staff who worked behind the scenes to make this happen including Terry Liernan, Barry Jackson, Steve Stombres, Jody Calemine, Barrett Karr, Todd Young, Anne Thorsen, Al Stayman, Isaac Edwards, Bob Greenawalt, Bret Bernhardt, Marie Blanco, Jim Zoia, Nick Matiella, Clay Lightfoot, Kimberly Wallner, Ed Corrigan, Jed Bullock, Matthew Hermann, John Whitt, Alexis Covey-Brandt, Austin Burnes, Bob Schwalbach, Brian Modeste, Nikki Bullock, Colleen Gilbert, Bonnie Bruce, as well as my personal office staff and many others."

"Finally, I thank President Obama for signing this bill today, and I appreciate the support that Nik Pula, Director of the Office of Insular Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior, provided in making White House staff aware that the bill was coming over from the U.S. House of Representatives for signature. I also thank Alejandro Perez at the White House for working closely with my office to bring this to the attention of the President so that our deadline for signature would be met."

"Also, I would be remiss if I did not thank StarKist. I especially want to thank Chairman Kim Jae-chul of the Dongwon Group for his patience and support throughout this long and difficult process. As owner of StarKist, he could've moved his operations elsewhere, but he has not, and I thank him for his commitment to the people of American Samoa."

"I also thank and appreciate Mr. Don Binotto, President and CEO of StarKist. I know that Don's heart is with our people and he is proven over and over again that he is doing everything he can to keep StarKist in American Samoa. Mr. Binotto and Chairman Kim have my personal assurances that I will

continue to stand with StarKist and do all I can to level the playing field so that we can maximize and protect the jobs of our local cannery workers who cannot fairly compete against workers that are paid \$.75 cents and less per hour in Thailand."

"Once more, I thank our people, the Governor and also the American Samoa Legislature, and everyone who has been a part of this important effort," Faleomavaega concluded.

IRS PROTECTS FAMOUS DEBTORS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, my chief of staff, Bob Griffiths, received an email from a constituent, Mr. Joe Steuer, regarding Rev. Al Sharpton and his tax debt. I would like for my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to read this email and one of the news stories about Mr. Sharpton, published in the November 19, 2014, edition of the Long Island, New York, newspaper *Newsday*, that explains his tax situation in more detail.

Mr. Sharpton has a national television program, which gives him more respect than many people feel he deserves. Most people with tax debt would not be given as much leniency as the IRS is giving Sharpton.

From: Joe Steuer

Sent: Friday, November 21, 2014 11:47 AM

To: Griffiths, Bob

Subject: Al the Elite Sharpton & Taxes

BOB, the tax issue regarding Rev. Al Sharpton strikes a nerve with me personally as a few years ago I was contacted by the IRS. I had not filed or paid taxes for 1 year, an oversight on my part none-the-less I was wrong, admitted my mistake and paid the back taxes, interest and penalties. I did ask the IRS employee at the start of the investigation for consideration as I have never had any issue with the IRS ever. The request for consideration fell on deaf ears.

Thusly, my reaction to high profile individuals like Rev. Sharpton is one of disdain which appears to me to be class warfare, the elites vs. the people.

What efforts are being made to represent the people as well as holding the "elites" to the same standards that the rest of live by?

For your information, I am going to write to MSNBC and ask how they condone this blatant disregard of the law? If I do happen to receive a response I will pass it along to your office.

I do look forward to receiving a response from Congressman Duncan.

JOE STEUER.

[From *Newsday*, Nov. 19, 2014]

SHARPTON SAYS HE'S WORKING OUT TAX-DEBT ISSUES

(By Anthony M. DeStefano)

The Rev. Al Sharpton, responding to new stories about his tangled finances, acknowledged Wednesday that he and his civil rights organization still owe back taxes and significant penalties but asserted that both were up-to-date in paying their "current" taxes. Seeking to put a positive spin on the issues, Sharpton said he and his National Action Network have worked out installment payment plans to wipe out the tax debt.

Sharpton said that the National Action Network owes about \$400,000 in what were unpaid payroll taxes and an additional

\$400,000 in penalties—down from about \$1.9 million assessed in 2008. But when asked at a news conference what he currently owes in personal back taxes, interest and penalties, Sharpton answered “I don’t know” and indicated he might not say even if he had the numbers on hand.

“We are paying current taxes and my current one [taxes], while keeping up with installments,” Sharpton told reporters at Network headquarters in Harlem.

He said he hoped to reduce the balances further through negotiations. In a story Tuesday, The New York Times reported that Sharpton at one point had more than \$4.5 million in current state and federal tax liens against him and his for-profit business.

Sharpton has two businesses, which the Times said face \$717,329 in tax liens. The story said Sharpton personally faced more than \$3 million in federal tax liens and \$777,657 in state liens.

An IRS spokesman said he could not legally discuss individual taxpayer matters. A spokesman for the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance said Wednesday that Sharpton had two current personal state liens totaling \$779,577 and two totaling \$457,968 for one of his private communications firm.

Those balances, including penalties, have actually risen over the years, the spokesman said. For privacy reasons, the spokesman couldn’t discuss any payment plans. Sharpton speculated new stories about his taxes were politically motivated because of his high profile and ties with Mayor Bill de Blasio and President Barack Obama.

“After negotiations in 2009, there was a signed document which worked out a payment plan to pay off those [debts],” said Sharpton, referring to the back federal taxes.

The Network’s 2013 federal charitable organization filing showed the group had income of \$4.9 million in contributions and grants against \$5.1 million in expenses. Sharpton was paid a salary of \$241,545.

ERIK WEIHENMAYER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Erik Weihenmayer for receiving the 2014 City of Golden Mayor’s Award of Excellence.

The City of Golden honors Erik for his inspirational pursuit of climbing, running, skiing, cycling, and kayaking challenges all over the world. Known for being the only blind man to climb Mount Everest, Erik co-founded an organization called No Barriers USA, whose mission is to encourage people to conquer barriers in their own lives. While in Golden, he dedicates his time to encouraging the community to live a No Barriers Life, giving speeches at Golden High School, the Mountaineering Center, Bent Gate Mountaineering, and the Buffalo Rose. He also donates his time to lead physically-challenged and underprivileged groups on outings.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Erik Weihenmayer for this well-deserved recognition by the City of Golden.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF DR. AARON SHIRLEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Aaron Shirley, a public health visionary and trailblazer in the medical profession, who dedicated his life to bringing medical services to underserved rural and urban communities in Mississippi. Not only was he great for his medical acumen and creativity in conceiving unique and innovative service delivery methods but also for his commitment to the cause of equality and civil rights.

Born in Gluckstadt, MS, Dr. Shirley eventually moved with his family to Jackson, MS, where he graduated from Lanier High School. In 1955, Dr. Shirley graduated from Tougaloo College and then received a scholarship to attend Meharry Medical School in Nashville, TN. After he graduated from Meharry in 1959, he moved back to Mississippi to begin a general practice. During this time, he held on to a desire to practice pediatric medicine. In Mississippi, in 1960, this type of specialization seemed an impossibility. Still, Dr. Shirley forged ahead, gaining valuable experience practicing family medicine.

In 1965, Dr. Shirley was invited into the pediatric residency program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. There, he became the first Black pediatrician in Mississippi and the first Black resident trained at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Dr. Shirley often related a story of being advised by one of his mentors to be prepared for white people to not want him to touch their kids. However, he quickly saw that this was never the case. He saw that when people are in need of medical attention or need help for their kids, the divides of race, color, or ideology simply evaporate. This realization made him understand that there are often bridges between individuals and communities, and from that point on, Dr. Shirley was consistently effective at building bridges across communities.

With this knack for building bridges, and a brilliant mind that eventually led to him receiving a MacArthur ‘Genius Award’ Fellowship, Dr. Shirley embarked on a mission to help communities that had very little access to the medical care that they badly needed.

In 1970, Dr. Shirley helped to establish the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center which has since become the largest provider of primary health care services to the poor, uninsured and underserved population in central Mississippi. Additionally, he created a comprehensive school-based clinic addressing myriad community health issues including, drug abuse, mental health issues, and teen violence. Both the health center and the clinical program have become models for similar programs across the country.

Dr. Shirley was a visionary. He saw solutions where some people had not even recognized that a problem existed. This was the case with the Jackson Medical Mall—a one stop shop for medical services and treatment. Where most people looked at the dilapidated Jackson Mall building and saw an eyesore, Dr. Shirley saw an opportunity, and in 1997, after

much hard work to get stakeholders to buy into the idea, he helped establish the Jackson Medical Mall facility which has subsequently become one of America’s most unique and important community health ventures.

Dr. Shirley was committed to achieving quality outcomes and access to medical care. To that end, he looked to a medical system that seemed very effective in Iran—using community health workers in ‘health houses’ to provide certain services, especially in rural places.

He saw these health houses as a way of bridging the gap and providing a network, through the community health worker, to assure that the patient receives the best and most complete care. With this concept in mind, in 2010, he founded the HealthConnect program that helps prevent unnecessary emergency room visits by sending physicians and nurses directly into the homes of people in underserved communities.

Aaron Shirley’s legacy is well-established in this country. Dr. Shirley challenged the system to provide services to the less fortunate and became a tireless advocate for civil and human rights. He provided immeasurable guidance to me during my entire tenure in elective office, making me personally indebted to him. Dr. Shirley’s impact on our community cannot be overstated and his accomplishments will benefit generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Dr. Aaron Shirley, a visionary in American medicine, trailblazer for rural and underserved communities, and dedicated community leader.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
MAYOR MARION BARRY, JR.

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am expressing condolences and commemoration for the life of Mayor Marion Barry, Jr.

In addition, I submit the following:

Whereas, Marion Barry, Jr. was an American activist and politician who served three terms as the Mayor of Washington, District of Columbia, and

Whereas, Mayor Barry served on the Council of the District of Columbia as an at-large member and subsequently in Ward 8, and

Whereas, Mayor Barry was involved in the African-American civil rights movement as a member of the Nashville Student Movement sit-ins and as the first chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and

Whereas, Mayor Barry gave more than 100,000 young people summer jobs and served as a catalyst for thousands of jobs for minorities, and

Whereas, he fought constantly and tirelessly for Home Rule and democracy for the District, and

Whereas, he increased senior citizen involvement and support of their programs, and Whereas, he worked closely with business leaders to bring increased commerce and recognition to “America’s First City”, and

Whereas, he showed the District of Columbia and the world what resilience and perseverance truly looks like by providing an example of inspiration and hope that a person who falls can indeed rise again, and